THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have already announced a comprehensive policy package for SSIs on 30th August, 2000 in order to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The package provides for easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure. This package is applicable all over the country including Andhra Pradesh.

Favourable environment for SSIs

1024. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "create hassle free environment for Small Units, CII" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated the 25th June, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the news-item in order to provide favourable industrial evironments for the small scale industrial units in the country so that they can face competition in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have already announced a comprehensive policy package on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The policy package provides for *inter-alia* easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital

subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure. In addition, Government have received the draft of a Small Enterprises Development Bill from Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad. The draft seeks to address concerns of th SSI sector related to credit, marketing, trade protection, labour related inspections, etc. The draft bill as attempted by ASCI, Hyderabad has been presented in the 47th SSI Board meeting held on 4th July, 2002 for feed back from SSI Board Members including CIJ.

Lending of Transponders to Private Organisations

1025. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to lend its transponders produced through ISRO's INSAT-4 series to the private organizations;

(b) if so, how may transponders would be pressed for commercial service and the amount expected through the lease; and

(c) the details of the fields where these transponders could be utilized and the life of these transponders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) INSAT transponders are already being leased for commercial services to private service operators. Some part of the INSAT-4 capacity will also be earmarked for such services. Amount expected through the lease will depend on the capacity leased.

(c) The life of the INSAT transpoders is roughly 12 years. These transponders can be utilised for data and telephone service through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs), internet service and TV broadcasting.